



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
Joe W. Stecher

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June 30, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Lincoln Police Department; Lancaster County Sheriff's Department; the Tri-City Drug Task Force including: the Nebraska State Patrol, FBI, Grand Island Police Department, the Hall County Sheriff's Office, the Adams County Sheriff's Office, the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, the Hastings Police Department, the Hall County Attorney's Office, Internal Revenue Service, the Kearney Police Department, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: On June 30, 2009, a former Hastings and Lincoln resident was sentenced to five years in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between July of 1999 and April of 2003. Marco Arita was held responsible for the distribution of between approximately 1 3/4 and seven ounces of methamphetamine. In January and March of 2001, a confidential informant working with the Tri-City Drug Task Force made two purchases of methamphetamine totaling approximately two ounces from Arita. Following the prison term, Arita will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

Name of Defendant: Marco Antonio Arita

AKA: Marco Antonio Arita Mejia, Marcos Anitas, El Gato, Don Gato

Age: 39

City of residence: unknown, was arrested in Henrico, Virginia

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The possible penalty is not less than five years nor more than 40 years in

prison and a fine of up to \$2,000,000. Following any term of imprisonment, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than four years. There is also a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Hastings and Lincoln

Location of Arrest: Henrico, Virginia

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Arita was held responsible for at least 50 grams (approximately 1 3/4 ounces) but less than 200 grams (approximately seven ounces) of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: None

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Between on or about July 1, 1999, and April 30, 2003

Federal Arrest Date: July 5, 2008

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: August 19, 2004

Initial Appearance Date: in Virginia: July 7, 2008; in Nebraska: August 21, 2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): March 18, 2009

Sentencing Date: June 30, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: None

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable David L. Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: July 5, 2008

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SEF